

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system, comprising:
a storage controller;
a storage device coupled via a primary bus to the storage controller;
a backplane controller coupled via a secondary bus to the storage controller;
a status indicator responsive to information received from the backplane controller to indicate the status of the storage device; and
wherein the information conveyed to the status indicator is conveyed via the secondary bus.
2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the information conveyed to the status indicator is not conveyed via the primary bus
3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the status indicator includes a light indicating device.
4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the status indicator includes an audible indicator.
5. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the primary bus is a small computer system interconnect ("SCSI") bus.
6. The computer system of claim 3, wherein the secondary bus is an I²C bus.
7. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the secondary bus has substantially fewer lines than the primary bus.
8. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the status indicator is operable at different frequencies and each frequency relates to a different status condition of the storage device.

9. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the status information indicates storage device failure.

10. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer system is rack mounted and the storage device is capable of being hot swapped.

11. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the storage device comprises a blade server.

12. A method, comprising:
detecting a change in a storage device status via a primary bus, wherein the storage device communicates with a storage controller;
indicating storage device status via a secondary bus, wherein the storage controller communicates with a backplane controller; and
enabling status indicators to reflect the status of the storage device, wherein the backplane controller communicates with the status indicators via the secondary bus.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the change in status is an insertion of a new storage device.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the change in status is the failure of a storage device.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the primary bus is chosen from a group consisting of a SCSI bus or an advanced technology attachment ("ATA") bus.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the secondary bus comprises an I²C bus.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the secondary bus comprises substantially fewer lines than the primary bus.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the status indicator is chosen from a group consisting of an audible indicator and an light indicating device.
19. A computer system, comprising:
a storing means for storing information;
a first controlling means for controlling the storing means, wherein the storing means and the first controlling means are coupled via a primary bus;
a secondary controlling means coupled via a secondary bus to the first controlling means;
a status indicating means that receives status information from the secondary controlling means, wherein the received information indicates the status of storage means; and
wherein the information conveyed to the status indicating means is conveyed via the secondary bus.
20. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the secondary bus comprises fewer lines that the primary bus.
21. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the status indication means indicates that the storing means has been inserted into the system.
22. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the status indication means indicates failure of the storing means.